

CEDRIC HOLLINS)	
Claimant)	
VS.)	
)	Docket No. 247,021
THE BOEING COMPANY)	
Respondent)	
AND)	
)	
INSURANCE CO. STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA)	
Insurance Carrier)	

The Board concludes the record as a whole does establish injury arising out of and in the course of employment.

Claimant testified he began having problems with his right wrist in 1997 when he was doing riveting, bucking, and drilling for respondent. Claimant reported the problem to Boeing Central Medical and was referred to Dr. Bernard F. Hearon. At this same time, claimant was receiving treatment for a shoulder injury. Dr. Hearon reported to Boeing Medical by letter dated April 29, 1997, that claimant complained of bilateral wrist pain worse on the right. Dr. Hearon noted that two weeks of light duty had improved claimant's symptoms and stated his impression that claimant's wrist pain was likely due to work-related overuse syndrome. Dr. Hearon also indicated that claimant would benefit from a permanent job change or modification.

After Dr. Hearon's recommendation, claimant was moved to a different shop where he did no bucking and very little riveting. In the new job, the symptoms improved. Claimant worked in this new position for approximately one year and then respondent reassigned claimant to a job which did again require that he do more riveting and bucking and that he use vibratory tools. According to claimant, the symptoms returned shortly thereafter. Claimant did not, however, seek medical treatment for approximately another year. During that time he saw several physicians for his shoulder but did not mention the wrist symptoms. Claimant explained that he had worked with other employees who had surgery for wrist problems and he preferred to do the exercises recommended, take aspirin as necessary, and wear a brace as necessary.

In March 1999, claimant saw Dr. Pedro A. Murati. It appears from Dr. Murati's report that the primary purpose of the visit was to obtain a rating for the shoulder injury. But Dr. Murati also stated in the report his impression of probable left carpal tunnel syndrome and possible right carpal tunnel syndrome. Dr. Murati also indicated neither was at maximum medical improvement.

When claimant saw Dr. Anthony G. A. Pollock in June 1999, claimant reported numbness and tingling in his left hand. Dr. Pollock found no evidence of any impingement or Tinel's in the wrist suggestive of nerve impingement. Claimant also complained of neck discomfort and headaches. Dr. Pollock stated that claimant had none of these complaints when he saw claimant nine months earlier and Dr. Pollock stated he was sure "this is not related in any way." It is not clear from Dr. Pollock's note whether he did not consider the complaints to be related to the shoulder injury or, as respondent suggests, related to claimant's work.

The Board concludes the record does establish that claimant has suffered a bilateral upper extremity injury which has produced numbness, tingling, and pain in his wrists. This conclusion is supported by the initial opinion of Dr. Hearon, the subsequent correlation between the claimant's work and the symptoms, the report from Dr. Murati, and claimant's testimony about his current symptoms. Whether the injury is permanent is not shown by the record, but the Board concludes the evidence establishes at least temporary injury for which claimant is entitled to medical treatment. Respondent should provide medical treatment at respondent's expense. Respondent is hereby ordered to provide medical

treatment and to provide a list of three physicians from which claimant may choose one to act as the authorized treating physician.

WHEREFORE, it is the finding, decision, and order of the Appeals Board that the preliminary hearing Order entered by Administrative Law Judge Jon L. Frobish on September 16, 1999, should be, and hereby is, reversed. Respondent is hereby ordered to provide medical treatment and to provide a list of three physicians from which claimant may choose one to act as the authorized treating physician.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this ____ day of November 1999.

BOARD MEMBER

c: Joseph Seiwert, Wichita, KS
Frederick L. Haag, Wichita, KS
Jon L. Frobish, Administrative Law Judge
Philip S. Harness, Director